

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /017 W  
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R 221045Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2814

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 2241

STATE FOR CU/EE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJ: STIPEND FOR U.S. LECTURERS IN ROMANIA

REF: STATE 114973

1. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, FINAL NEGOTIATED TEXT OF IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS FOR 1975-76 PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES (BUCHAREST 1878) SPECIFIES THAT THE "MONTHLY STIPEND" FOR U.S. LECTURERS IN ROMANIA WILL BE 4500 LEI AND FREE HOUSING. AS REPORTED IN BUCHAREST 2035, HOWEVER, SIGNING OF CONDITIONS HAS BEEN DELAYED PENDING THE RETURN OF AMBASSADOR BARNES. DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS IN APRIL, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ORALLY AGREED THAT 4500 LEI STIPEND WOULD BE RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1975. THIS UNDERSTANDING WILL, HOWEVER, REQUIRE FURTHER CONFIRMATION PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF THE CONDITIONS.

FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR CALDWELL BROUGHT AMOUNT OF HIS STIPEND TO ATTENTION OF EMBASSY. WE HAD BEEN UNDER IMPRESSION (SHARED BY DEPARTMENT AND DIES) THAT ALL PROFESSORS HERE RECEIVE 4500 LEI PER MONTH. AMBIGUITY, AND LACK OF PREVIOUS ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER BY PROFESSORS, STEMMED FROM FACT THAT ROMANIAN PAY SLIP ACTUALLY LISTS STIPEND AS 4800 LEI OF WHICH 800 IS DEDUCTED FOR TAXES. (FOLLOWING EFFECTIVE DATE OF NEW IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS HERE, UNCLASSIFIED

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GROSS PAY FIGURE WILL BE REVISED UPWARD TO REFLECT NET

OF 4500 LEI PER MONTH.)

3. THIS SITUATION HAS BEEN IN EFFECT, APARENTLY, FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS DUE TO LACK OF SPECIFICITY IN PREVIOUS VERSIONS OF IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS. DEPARTMENT RECORDS WILL SHOW THAT AIDE-MEMOIRE WHICH REPRESENTED CONDITIONS FOR 1971-72 PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES MERELY STATED THAT THE MONTHLY STIPEND FOR LECTURER CATEGORY WOULD BE "MADE KNOW AT THE TIME THE APPLICANT IS ACCEPTED." CONDITIONS FOR 1973-74 PROGRAM SIGNED IN WASHINGTON IN DECEMBER 1972 LACK EVEN THIS DIRECT REFERENCE TO FULBRIGHT INSTRUCTOR CATEGORY. IN THIS CONTEXT, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HERE DEvised 4800-4000 LEI FORMULA IN GOOD-FAITH ATTEMPT TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF "ADEQUATE MONTHLY STIPEND FOR PARTICIPANTS" IN LIEU OF SPECIFIC IDENTIFICATION OF MUTUALLY-AGREED UPON ALTERNATE SUM. WHEN EMBASSY RAISED ISSUE IN LATE 1974, MINISTRY EXPLAINED EVOLUTION OF 4000 LEI FIGURE, INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO RAISE STIPEND TO 4500 LEI IN NEW DOCUMENT, BUT POINTED OUT THAT NO IMMEDIATE ADJUSTMENT WAS POSSIBLE WITHOUT AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM ANOTHER BILATERAL DOCUMENT.

4. EMBASSY'S STATEMENT IN DECEMBER NEWSLETTER WAS BASED ON INCOMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF BACKGROUND OF PROBLEM AND ASSUMPTION THAT 4000 LEI FIGURE WAS A SUDDEN ADMINISTRATIVE ABERRATION. SITUATION WAS MORE ACCURATELY AND FULLY EXPLAINED TO ALL FULBRIGHT PROFESSORS INCLUDING KRAL AND HODGDON AT JANUARY MEETING OF FULBRIGHT LECTURERS IN SINAIA. WE STATED AT THAT TIME THAT NEW IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS WOULD CLARIFY PROBLEM AND THAT EMBASSY WOULD ATTEMPT, REPEAT ATTEMPT, TO GAIN RETROACTIVE PAYMENT TO JANUARY. WE DID NOT, OF COURSE, ANTICIPATE THAT SIGNING WOULD BE FURTHER DELAYED UNTIL JUNE. WE INTEND TO REITERATE OUR ORAL AGREEMENT FOR RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS PRIOR TO SIGNING, HOWEVER.

5. EMBASSY HOPES THESE DETAILS CLARIFY THIS MATTER.  
VIETS

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 22 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 114973  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2004 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STIPEND FOR U.S. LECTURERS IN ROMANIA  
**TAGS:** OEXC, RO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006